

As an American citizen I have been beyond distressed to see what has happened to the American media in the nation in the last 20 years. The concentration of our television, cable, internet, newspaper and radio ownership to roughly SIX sole companies, leaves the media landscape in this country more resembling the structure of news ownership in a totalitarian or fascist nation, than one that would operate in a democracy.

I believe, the disintegration of regulations that for many years were intended to prevent the very consolidation that we are now experiencing, is the single most destructive and damaging force to our democracy and has severely eroded the process by which we exercise our First Amendment rights. The reason being: citizens have a right to be informed in a balanced, fair, objective manner, so that citizens make in fact make "informed decisions--political or otherwise. Without that balance--we are in nothing but an Orwellian world--we are in Cuba, we are in Stalin's Soviet Union. SIX or SEVEN companies with vested political interests should not be the sole purveyor and distributors of public commentary and news. For the sake of the very vitality and authenticity of our democracy, the FCC should reinstate the regulations that make such consolidations illegal.

Furthermore, the media owners should be once again subject to the Fairness Doctrine. The elimination of the regulations and this doctrine were lobbied by the very media moguls who have now unprecedented control of our national discourse. ABC Disney, GE, AOL, --FOX--everywhere my children and my peers look--the information is coming from the same 6 or 7 sources. It is an outrage. I ask that the FCC reject the special interests of an already monstrously powerful media conglomerates and return our media to the people, so that all Americans and particularly our children --once again enjoy the privilege of a balanced media.

IN CLOSING: I AND MILLIONS LIKE ME, SHOULD NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY OR THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE THAT IS DISTINCT FROM THE BIAS AND SLANT OF THE CABLE AND NETWORK NEWS STATIONS THAT ARE MOST AMERICANS ONLY CHOICE --ONLY ALTERNATIVE FOR THEIR NEWS. AMERICANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE QUALIFICATIONS, OBJECTIVITY AND INTEGRITY (AS NEWS) OF RUSH LIMBAUGH VS WALTER CRONKITE. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE OBJECTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN EDITORIAL, BETWEEN ENTERTAINMENT THAT POSES AS NEWS AND AN OBJECTIVE BALANCED NEWS REPORT. THE DEREGULATION OF THE MEDIA HAS NOW BLURRED ALL THOSE DISTINCTIONS AND LEAVES THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DUMBED DOWN AND WHOLLY UNINFORMED. THE FCC HAS A RESPONSIBILITY --A SACRED ONE --AND I URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THE DEVASTATING IMPACT THAT THE RECENT MEDIA CONSOLIDATION HAS AND CONTINUES TO HAVE ON OUR DEMOCRACY AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE (OR LACK THEREOF) WHEN WILL IT ALL END? HOW FEW IS TOO FEW? WHEN 90% OF RADIO STATIONS SERVING MAJORITY MARKETS ARE OWNED BY ONLY 3 COMPANIES? TWO? WHEN NEWS IS CONTROLLED BY 3 COMPANIES--TWO --ONE? AS IS IT, NEWS IS LIKE STATE OPERATED NEWS. I URGE YOU TO REJECT FURTHER MEDIA CONSOLIDATION AND TO ADOPT REGULATIONS MAKING SUCH CONSOLIDATIONS ILLEGAL.